

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 – 20. (cancelled)

21. (currently amended) A method for data back up, comprising the steps of:

saving at a service provider system, without a request from subscriber servers, at least some of data communicated between said subscriber servers and said service provider system during communications sessions between said subscriber servers and remote destinations through said service provider system;

receiving, at said service provider system, a request from at least one of said subscriber servers for backing up at least one data increment identified by an identifier included in said request;

checking said service provider system to determine if said service provider system has a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment; and

backing up the data increment using the copy or regenerated or replicated portion from the service provider system if it is found.

22. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising a step of using a copy received from said at least one subscriber server to back up the requested data increment after the checking step if it has not found a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or cannot regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment.

23. (cancelled)

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 21, wherein said service provider

system comprises one or more access servers for facilitating said communications sessions and a backup server for backing up said requested data increment.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said step of checking comprises checking at least one of said access servers.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said identified data increment is one that was transmitted from, or received by, said at least one subscriber server through said service provider system in a previous communications session without a request for backup from said subscriber server.

27. (currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising steps of monitoring and copying data having specified properties determined to be indicative of data likely to be subject to said request after the checking step ~~if it has not found a copy of at least a portion of the identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment.~~

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 23 21, wherein said service provider system is an ISP system.

29. (currently amended) A service provider system comprising:
means for saving, without a request from subscriber servers, at least some of data communicated between said subscriber servers and said service provider system, said means for saving said saving means comprises one or more access servers for facilitating data communications sessions between said subscriber servers and remote destinations through said service provider system;

means for receiving a request from at least one of said subscriber servers for backing up a data increment identified by an identifier included in said request;

means for checking if said service provider system has a copy of at least a portion of said

identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment; and

means for backing up said identified data increment using said copy or regenerated or replicated portion from said service provider system.

30. (currently amended) The service provider system of claim 29, further comprising means for downloading a copy of said identified data increment from said subscriber server and for backing up said identified data increment using said downloaded copy if no portion of said identified data increment is found available or can be regenerated or replicated at said service provider system.

31. (previously presented) The service provider system of claim 29, further comprising means for monitoring and copying data having specified properties determined to be indicative of data likely to be subject to said request.

32. (cancelled)

33. (currently amended) The service provider system of claim 32 29, wherein it said service provider is an ISP system.

34. (currently amended) The service provider system of claim 32 29, further comprising a backup server for backing up said requested data increment.

35. (previously presented) The service provider system of claim 29, wherein said requested data increment is one that was transmitted from, or received by, said at least one subscriber server through said service provider system in a previous communication session without a request for backup from said subscriber server.

36. (currently amended) The service provider system of claim 35- 34, wherein said

backup server is connected to said access server via a first communications channel and said subscriber server is connected to said service provider system via a second communications channel that is lower in bandwidth than said first communications channel.

37. (new) A service provider system comprising:

means for saving, without a request from subscriber servers, at least some of data communicated between said subscriber servers and said service provider system;

means for receiving a request from at least one of said subscriber servers for backing up a data increment identified by an identifier included in said request;

means for checking if said service provider system has a copy of at least a portion of said identified data increment or can regenerate or replicate at least a portion of the identified data increment;

means for monitoring and copying data having specified properties determined to be indicative of data likely to be subject to said request; and

means for backing up said identified data increment using said copy or regenerated or replicated portion from said service provider system.